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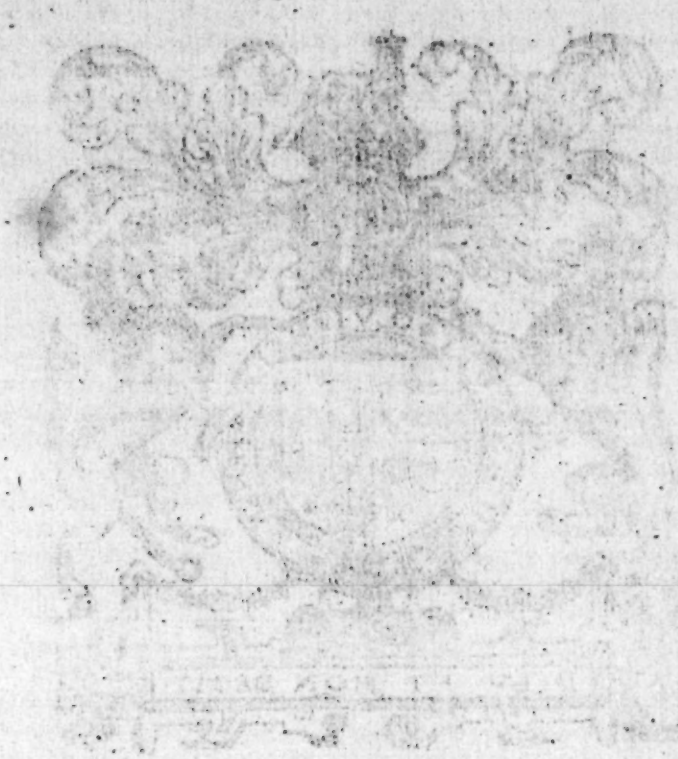
¶ By the King.

¶ A Proclamation, prohibiting the bringing in of any Commodities traded from the LEVANT, into this Kingdome; as well by Subiects as Strangers, not free of that Company: Also containing a publication of certaine Statutes, for the restraint of all His Maiesties Subiects, from Shipping any Commodities in Strangers Bottomes, either into this Kingdome, or out of the same.

HER MAJESTY'S STATE PAPER OFFICE

IT is a great part of Our Princely care, to maintaine and increase the trade of Our Merchants, and the strength of Our Naule, the one being as the Veines whereby wealth is imported into Our estate, and the other as principall Synewes for the strength and seruice of Our Crowne and Kingdome: whereas therefore the Societie and Company of our Merchants trading the LEVANT Seas, haue by the space of thirty yeeres past, at the least, had a setled, and constant possession of Trade in those parts and haue had the sole bringing in of the Commodities of those Countreys, as namely Currans, Cotton woolls, Wines of Candie, Galles, &c. Whereby Our Kingdome hath bene much inriched, Our great Ships and Mariners set on worke, & the Honour & fame of our Nation & Kingdome, spread & inlarged in those remote parts: And whereas, for their further incouragement, the said Company haue had, and enioyed by Letters Patents vnder the great Seale of England, alwell in the time of the late Queene, as in Our owne time priuiledge for the sole bringing in of the said Commodities, with generall prohibitions and re-



straints, alwell of naturall Subiects, being not free of that Societie, as of all Strangers and Aliens whatsoeuer, to bring in any of the said Commodities, contrary to the Priuiledge of the saide Company:

Wee minding the vpholding and continuance of the said Trade, and not to suffer that the said Society shall sustaine any violation or diminution of their liberties and priuiledges, haue thought good to ratifie and publish vnto all persons, as well subiects as strangers, the said priuiledge and restraints, to the end that none of them presume to attempt any thing against the same: And doe hereby straitly charge and command all our Customers, Comptrollers, and all other Our Officers at the Ports, and also the Farmers of Our Customes and their Deputies and waiters, that they suffer not any Currans, Cotton Wool, Wines of Candy, Galles, nor any other Commodities whatsoeuer, brought from any the forraine parts or Regions, whereinto the said Company haue vsed to Trade, to bee landed, except onely such as shall bee brought in by such as are free of the said Company.

Furthermore, whereas there hath beene in Ancient time, diuers good and politique Lawes made against the Shipping of Merchandizes in Strangers Bottomes, either inward or outward, as namely the Statutes of 5. Rich. 2. 4. Hen. 7. 32. Hen. 8. &c. Which Lawes haue of later yeers been much neglected, to the great preiudice of the Nauigation of our Kingdome: we do straightly charge and command, that the said Lawes bee from henceforth duely put in execution, vpon the great and grieuous paines therein conteined, and vpon paine of Our high indignation and displeasure towards all Our Officers and Ministers, which shall be found slacke and remisse in procuring and assisting the due execution of the said Lawes.

Giuen at Whitehall, the seuenteenth day of Aprill, in the thirteenth yeere of Our Raigne of England, France, and Ireland, and of Scotland the eight and fortieth.

God saue the King.

HER MAJESTY'S STATE PAPER OFFICE

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